

Message Text

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INRE-00 NSCE-00 EUR-25 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 SPC-03 ACDA-19

IO-14 AF-10 A-01 NEA-10 /143 W

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O 080320Z NOV 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4265

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USDEL RIYADH

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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SECTO 46

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY'S PRESS BRIEFING

FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY'S
PRESS BRIEFING AT CAIRO NILE HILTON HOTEL, NOVEMBER 7,
1973:

QUOTE

THIS BRIEFING MIGHT HAVE STARTED A FEW MINUTES
EARLIER IF SOMEONE WERE SURE HOW TO WORK THE ELEVATORS
IN THE BUILDING.

THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND OF EGYPT
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HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

AT AN EARLY DATE. THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE ALSO AGREED THAT IN THE MEANTIME THE RESPECTIVE INTERESTS SECTIONS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL BE RAISED IMMEDIATELY TO THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL. THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT HAS NAMED AMBASSADOR ASHRAF GHORBAL. THE UNITED STATES HAS DESIGNATED AMBASSADOR HERMANN F. EILTS. THEY WILL TAKE UP THEIR POSTS PROMPTLY.

MR. EILTS, AND THE SPELLING IS EILTS, IS PRESENTLY ASSIGNED TO THE ARMY WAR COLLEGE IN WASHINGTON. HE SERVED PREVIOUSLY AS AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO SAUDI ARABIA. BECAUSE OF THE PRESS OF TIME, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO HAVE AT MY FINGERTIPS ANY MORE OF HIS BIOGRAPHIC DATA, BUT THE U.S. INTERESTS SECTION IS GETTING THAT NOW, AND HOPEFULLY WE WILL HAVE IT AVAILABLE TO YOU WITHIN THE NEXT 15 20 MINUTES. I WOULD EXPECT IN HIS CASE THAT HE WOULD BE ON POST HERE IN CAIRO WITHIN 10 DAYS TO TWO WEEKS. IT COULD EVEN BE A LITTLE BEFORE THAT.

NOW IN ADDITION TO THAT BASIC ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH WILL ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE IN WASHINGTON, I WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO AND HAROLD SAUNDERS OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY STAFF OF THE WHITE HOUSE ARE EN ROUTE TO ISRAEL NOW. THEY WILL HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN ISRAEL. I EXPECT, ALL THINGS BEING AS THEY NOW ARE, THAT MESSRS. SISCO AND SAUNDERS WILL JOIN THE SECRETARY AND HIS PARTY SOMETIME TOMORROW IN JORDAN.

NOW, LET ME SAY THAT IN CONNECTION WITH THE TRIP OF MESSRS. SISCO AND SAUNDERS TO ISRAEL, THAT WE HAVE... AS BACKGROUND FOR THAT, WE HAVE DEVELOPED SOME IDEAS HERE IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT ON BOTH SHORT, OR I SHOULD SAY PERHAPS, IMMEDIATE AND LONGER RANGE PROBLEMS, AND THAT WE WANTED TO DISCUSS THESE WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN ISRAEL.

I'LL BE GLAD TO TRY TO ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS AS FOLLOW-UPS TO THOSE TWO POINTS.

Q. WHEN DID MESSRS.SISCO AND SAUNDERS LEAVE HERE?
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A. THEY LEFT SOMETIME THIS AFTERNOON, THEY WENT VIA CYPRUS. WE HAD WORD JUST BEFORE I CAME DOWN THAT THEY HAVE DEPARTED CYPRUS SO THAT THEY SHOULD BE IN ISRAEL WITHIN THE HOURS.

Q. DOES THE DISCUSSION YOU MENTIONED INCLUDE OPENING OF THE BLOCKADED THIRD ARMY AND LIFTING OF THE BLOCKADE IN

BAB EL-MANDAB?

A. I HOPE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THAT IT WON'T BE POSSIBLE FOR ME TO DETAIL THESE MATTERS FOR YOU INASMUCH AS THEY HAVE NOT YET BEEN COMMUNICATED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL. AS YOU KNOW, OR AT LEAST, THE AMERICAN PRESS TRAVELLING WITH THE SECRETARY OVER THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS, THAT BEFORE WE LEFT WASHINGTON WE SAID THAT AT SOME POINT MR. SISCO, AT LEAST, WOULD GO TO ISRAEL SOMETIME AFTER OUR STOP HERE IN CAIRO. NOW, THAT HAS DEVELOPED SOONER THAN PERHAPS WQS FIRST ANTICIPATED, AND WE THOUGHT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL WOULD WELCOME SOME DISCUSSION OF WHAT THE SECRETARY HAS BEEN TALKING OVER HERE TODAY. NOW, HE HAD, THE SECRETARY, SPENT THREE HOURS FROM 10 UNTIL ABOUT 1:00 O'CLOCK WITH PRESIDENT SADAT IN CAIRO TODAY. FOLLOWING THAT, THE FREIGN MINISTER MINISTER, MINISTER FAHMI, RETURNED HERE TO THE HILTON HOTEL WITH THE SECRETARY AND SPENT 45 MINUTES TO AN HOUR HERE WHICH DELAYED OUR DEPARTURE FOR LUNCH, AND THE SECRETARY WILL BE SEEING HIM ONCE AGAIN AT APPROXIMATELY 7:30 AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S OFFICE, AND THEN THE LAST SCHEDULED THING THIS EVENING IS DINNER THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL GIVE.

Q. BOB, IS PART OF THE PURPOSE OF THE SISCO-SAUNDERS VISIT TO ISRAEL TO EXPLAIN THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF U.S. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH EGYPT?

A. WELL, I DON'T WANT YOU TO EXCLUDE THAT. CERTAINLY THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THAT. I WOULD EXPECT THERE WOULD BE

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MORE DISCUSSION THERE ABOUT THE SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATIONS
HERE IN CAIRO.

Q. BOB, WOULD YOU SAY THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT IS TO
CONSULT WITH THE ISRAELIS ABOUT PROPOSALS OR PROPOSITIONS
RAISED HERE OR TO COMMUNICATE TO THE ISRAELIS DECISIONS
ALREADY MADE?

A. THEY WILL BE CONSULTING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL.

Q. BOB, IF THAT IS SO, WHY ARE THEY NOT COMING BACK TO EGYPT?
WHY ARE THEY GOING TO JORDAN? YOU THINK THERE IS A RESPONSE
TO GIVE EGYPT FROM ISRAEL?

A. WELL, I DON'T WANT TO RULE THAT OUT. WE DON'T HAVE IT
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SCHEDULED; I JUST SAID THAT I EXPECT THEM TO JOIN US IN
JORDAN TOMORROW AND AFTER THAT, I DON'T KNOW.

Q. WHAT IS IT THAT MADE THE RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS POSSIBLE
TODAY?

A. THIS IS A MATTER THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS DISCUSSED
WITH BOTH THE PRESIDENT OF EGYPT AND OTHER OFFICIALS OVER
THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS AND A MATTER IN WHICH WE WERE ALWAYS
INTERESTED IN RETURNING TO ITS FORMER STATUS. I DON'T WANT
TO ATTEMPT TO DELINEATE EVERY CONSIDERATION AND PARTICULARLY
NOT ON BEHALF OF EGYPT. I THINK THAT THEY SHOULD AND CAN
SPEAK TO THAT FOR THEMSELVES. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR FEELING
THAT SINCE, OR LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY, OVER THE LAST SEVERAL
YEARS, THAT WE WOULD PERHAPS HAVE A MORE EFFECTIVE LINE AND
LEVEL OF COMMUNICATION IF BOTH GOVERNMENTS WERE REPRESENTED
AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL.

Q. WELL, WHAT MADE IT POSSIBLE, BOB ...

A. MARVIN.

Q. SOME OF US HAD THE IMPRESSION IN THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS THAT THE RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS HAS BEEN LINKED BY THE EGYPTIANS TO CERTAIN AGREEMENTS, PERHAPS, OR UNDERSTANDINGS THAT HAD TO BE REACHED ON THE IMMEDIATE SITUATION REGARDING THE CEASEFIRE. IS THAT A PROPER ASSUMPTION AT THIS TIME?

A. WELL, I THINK THAT IT SHOULD BE THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT TO SPEAK TO THAT. I DON'T KNOW THAT I COULD DETAIL ALL OF THE CONSIDERATIONS THAT WENT INTO THEIR THINKING ABOUT IT, THE FACT THAT IT CAME NOW RATHER THAN LATER, IS A MATTER OF SATISFACTION TO THE UNITED STATES.

Q. DO YOU EXPECT OTHER ARAB GOVERNMENT TO FOLLOW SOON?

A. I HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING.

Q. HOW DO YOU CHARACTERIZE THE SITUATION NOW, BOB? THE SECRETARY SEEMED TO BE RATHER OPTIMISTIC THIS AFTERNOON.
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IS HE STILL OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE CHANCES FOR A SETTLEMENT?

A. WELL, REMEMBER WHAT I SAID A FEW MINUTES AGO, IN HAVING MESSRS. SISCO AND SAUNDERS GO TO ISRAEL. THE BACKGROUND OF THAT WAS THAT WE DEVELOPED HERE IN CAIRO SOME IDEAS BOTH ON THE IMMEDIATE ISSUES AND ON THE LONGER RANGE QUESTIONS THAT WE FEEL WOULD BE OF INTEREST AND WARRANT DISCUSSION WITH ISRAEL, SO THAT AND INDEED ALL OF THE CONVERSATIONS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS HAD WITH THE PARTIES OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS, PARTICULARLY IN WASHINGTON BUT ALSO IN MOSCOW, WE HAVE FOCUSED A GOOD DEAL OF ATTENTION IN THE FIRST INSTANCE ON THE IMMEDIATE SITUATION ON THE GROUND BUT ALWAYS KEEPING IN MIND THAT IF THAT COULD BE RESOLVED AND ACCOMMODATIONS REACHED, THAT THAT WOULD MOVE YOU THEN TOWARDS A LONGER TERM QUESTION OF A SETTLEMENT WHICH IS THE BEST WAY I CAN DESCRIBE IT AT THE MOMENT.

Q. BOB, YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT IS PHRASED IN CONDITIONAL TERMS; IT IS AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO RESUME RELATIONS. ARE THERE CONDITIONS ON ONE OR THE OTHER SIDE THAT HAVE TO BE FULFILLED BEFORE THIS AGREEMENT IS CONSUMMATED.

A. I WOULDN'T SAY THAT THERE ARE AND I'D BE WILLING TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WHICH IN FACT THEN ESTABLISHES TWO RESIDENT AMBASSADORS IN PLACE IS DIFFICULT

TO DISTINGUISH FROM IN EFFECT HAVING DE JURE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, SO I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE THE IMPLICATION THAT ANYTHING IS CONDITIONAL HERE.

Q. CAN YOU CLARIFY WHY IT IS CALLED AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE?

A. THIS IS THE WAY THE SECRETARY AND THE PRESIDENT OF EGYPT AND HIS ADVISORS DECIDED TO LEAVE IT FOR THE PRESENT. WELL I JUST HAVE TO LEAVE IT AT THAT.

Q. BOB, PRESIDENT SADAT TODAY AFTER MEETING WITH DR. KISSINGER SAID THAT WITHOUT DOUBT THAT HE WOULD LIKE THE SECRETARY TO CONTINUE TO PLAY THE MIDDLE MAN IN THE SITUATION. DO YOU FORESEE THE SECRETARY REMAINING ACTIVE PERSONALLY IN HELPING THE TWO SIDES TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS?

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A. WELL, I THINK YOU CAN ASSUME THAT THE SECRETARY WILL REMAIN PERSONALLY INTERESTED AND TO AN IMPORTANT DEGREE PERSONALLY INVOLVED. WHETHER, WHEN AND IF A NEGOTIATING PROCESS WHICH IN FACT BRINGS THE PARTIES TOGETHER IN SOME FORM AND PLACE YET TO BE AGREED UPON, IT WOULD BE CONSTITUTED, AT A SECRETARY OF STATE LEVEL, I AM INCLINED TO DOUBT. I THINK PROBABLY IT WOULD BE SOMETHING LESS THAN THAT BY COMMON CONSENT OF ALL OF THE GOVERNMENTS, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT THE SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON WOULD NOT BE PERSONALLY INVOLVED.

Q. BOB, WHAT IF THE ISRAELIS DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF

A. OF THE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ISSUE, OR ALL?

Q. WHAT WOULD THE RUSSIAN (UNCLEAR)....

A. WELL, I THINK IN PART THAT HAS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT. I'VE ALREADY SAID AND I THINK THOSE WHO COVER WASHINGTON HAVE BEEN AWARE THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS SOUGHT ON A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC OCCASIONS THAT I CAN PERSONALLY RECALL OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, THE RESTORATION OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND CAIRO, SO WE WERE PREPARED FOR IT AT ANY TIME.

Q. (UNCLEAR)....

A. THE CONVERSATIONS HERE TODAY CLEARLY PRECIPITATED IT, I DOUBT THAT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE IF THE SECRETARY OF STATE WASN'T VISITING CAIRO TODAY, SO CERTAINLY A PRECIPITATE ACTION LIES IN THE TALKS HERE TODAY, THE FACT THAT I

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FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4267

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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DON'T HAVE THE CIRRICULUM VITAE ON THE MAN BEING DESIGNATED BY
THE UNITED STATE IS SOMETHING YOU MAY CRITICIZE ME FOR
IF YOU LIKE, I DON'T KNOW THAT THEREBY HANGS ALL THAT MUCH.

Q. BOB, THERE IS THE CONDITIONAL IN THE WAY YOU'VE STATED THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS. MESSRS. SISCO AND SAUNDERS ARE GOING TO
ISRAEL TO DISCUSS IDEAS. IF THE ISRAELIS DO NOT APPROVE THOSE
IDEAS, IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THIS DECISION ON RELATIONS COULD BE
REVERSED?

A. I WOULD EXCLUDE IT.

Q. DO YOU KNOW OF ANY PRECEDENT WHERE AN AGREEMENT IN
PRINCIPLE TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, WHERE THERE ARE
ON-GOING RELATIONS(UNCLEAR) INTERESTS SECTION IN THE TWO
COUNTRIES?

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A. WELL, IN THE PERIOD SINCE 1967, I THINK THAT HAS OCCURRED IN..., WELL, WHERE WE HAD INTEREST SECTIONS, FOR EXAMPLE IN THE SUDAN, WHERE RELATIONS WERE BROKEN WITH THE UNITED STATES IN 1967. NOW WHETHER AT THAT TIME IN RE-ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WE USED THE PHRASE "AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE", I'M FRANK TO SAY I DON'T REMEMBER. BUT THERE IS PRECEDENT INDEED FOR THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN A COUNTRY WHERE THE U.S. HAS BEEN REPRESENTED BY A THIRD PARTY.

Q. (UNCLEAR)

A. I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER, MURRAY, WHETHER IT'S YES OR NO.

Q. BOB, WILL THIS ANNOUNCEMENT AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN WASHINGTON BE THE FIRST WORD TO ISRAEL ABOUT THIS RESTORATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH EGYPT?

A. I BELIEVE THAT SOMETHING WAS COMMUNICATED THROUGH OUR CHANNELS TO EGYPT EARLIER TODAY.

Q. YOU MEAN ISRAEL*

A. I'M SORRY, TO ISRAEL, AND WHILE ARRANGEMENTS WERE BEING MADE FOR SISCO AND SAUNDERS TO GET TO ISRAEL, INDEED THE ISRAELIS HAD SENT AN AIRCRAFT TO CYPRUS TO PICK UP SISCO AND SAUNDERS TO FLY THEM TO ISRAEL.

Q. IT WOULD COME, WOULD YOU SAY, AS A SURPRISE TO MRS. MEIR, SHE HAVING BEEN IN WASHINGTON JUST LAST WEEK, IT'S HARD TO JUDGE OTHER PEOPLE'S REACTIONS, BUT SHOULD SHE BE SURPRISED BY THIS ANNOUNCEMENT?

A. THE QUESTION PUT THAT WAY, I MUST ANSWER WITH "NO COMMENT."

Q. (UNCLEAR) THE NET RESULT OF ALL THE ACTIVITY TODAY, THE HURRIED VISIT OF SISCO AND SAUNDERS TO ISRAEL (UNCLEAR) ADDITIONAL PRESSURES ON ISRAEL TO MAKE CONCESSIONS TO THE EGYPTIAN SIDE?

A. I DON'T THINK THAT WOULD BE A FAIR OR JUSTIFIED CONCLUSION AT ALL. THOSE OF YOU WERE WATCHING IN WASHINGTON WHILE YOU MAY NOT HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE TOTAL ANATOMY OF THE PROCESS DID KNOW
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GENERALLY THAT WE WERE HAVING CROSS CONVERSATION WITH THE EGYPTIANS AND WITH THE ISRAELIS, AND TO ANOTHER EXTENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION. I SAID HERE A FEW MINUTES AGO THAT IT WAS ALWAYS ANTICIPATED THAT MR. SISCO WOULD GO BACK THROUGH ISRAEL AT SOME POINT. THE FACT THAT

HE IS GOING THERE TODAY IS PRECIPITATED BY THE PROGRESS IN THE CONVERSATIONS MADE BETWEEN THE SECRETARY, PRESIDENT SADAT AND HIS OFFICIALS. I JUST DON'T BELIEVE IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT THEY ARE BEING SENT THERE TO PRESSURE ISRAEL. ISRAEL HAS A MIND OF ITS OWN, AND WILL MAKE ITS DECISION IN THE LIGHT OF WHAT IT CONSIDERS TO BE ITS BEST INTERESTS. YEST SIR?

Q. (UNCLEAR)...

A. I'LL TRY IT ONCE MORE. IT IS THAT WE HAVE BEEN KEEPING THE EGYPTIAN SIDE INFORMED OF OUR CONVERSATION WITH ISRAEL, KEEPING ISRAEL INFORMED OF OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH THE EGYPTIANS. MRS. MEIR HERSELF SAID WHEN SHE CAME TO WASHINGTON, NOT ONCE BUT SEVERAL TIMES, THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT ATTEMPTING TO BRING PRESSURE UPON ISRAEL. NOW WE EITHER HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY HERE IN WHICH WE CAN TRANSMIT THE POSITIONS AND THE ATTITUDES OF THE TWO PRINCIPAL PARTIES THAT WILL REQUIRE SOME FRANKNESS OF EXPRESSION, OR WE DON'T. IT'S OUR BELIEF THAT WE DO, AND THE FACT THAT WE CONTINUE TO HAVE CONTACT IN BOTH TEL AVIV AND CAIRO I THINK IS AMPLE EVIDENCE OF THAT.

Q. BOB - I'M SORRY, I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN AGREEMENT AND AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE?

A. HERB, IF I SAID IT WAS A DIFFERENCE PERHAPS, OR A DISTINCTION WITHOUT A DIFFERENCE, WOULD THAT HELP? I'VE ALREADY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SAYING AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE AND IDENTIFYING AMBASSADORS TO TAKE UP POSTS PROMPTLY IS TO IN EFFECT HAVE FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THE FACT THAT THIS LANGUAGE WAS AGREED UPON TO ... IS ..., IT WAS AGREED TO.

Q. BOB (UNCLEAR). CONVERSATIONS SUGGESTING ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN SOVIET UNION AND ISRAEL.

A. NOT THAT WE'RE AWARE OF.
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Q. BOB, SOME OF THE CONFUSION, I THINK HERE, ARISES FROM THE FACT THAT SOME OF US HAD BELIEVED THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS COULD NOT BE RESUMED WITH EGYPT UNTIL THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND WAS RESOLVED IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. NOW YOU SAY ...

A. NOW, I DON'T KNOW THAT THAT WAS EVER SAID QUITE THAT SPECIFICALLY.

Q. WELL, WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IS WHETHER TODAY YOU ARE ANY MORE OPTIMISTIC THAT THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND CAN BE RESOLVED IN A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. DO YOU HAVE

ANY REASON AT ALL TO BELIEVE THAT THAT'S POSSIBLE?

A. WE'LL PERHAPS KNOW BETTER AFTER WE'VE HAD CONVERSATIONS
WITH ISRAEL, IS THE ONLY COMMON SENSE WAY I CAN ANSWER THAT.

Q. BOB, WITH AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE, WILL THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, PERIOD, REQUIRE NOW ANOTHER
ANNOUNCEMENT?

A. IF YOU LIKE, WE'LL MAKE ANOTHER ONE.

Q. BOB, ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO, THERE IS A REPORT THAT
HE IS INTENDING TO TRAVEL TO KUWAIT (UNCLEAR).

A. WE HAD THOUGHT BEFORE WE LEFT WASHINGTON THAT DAMASCUS MIGHT
BE INCLUDED ON HIS ITINERARY AND IT APPARENTLY IS THE FEELING
IN DAMASCUS THAT THEY WOULD RATHER PERHAPS HAVE IT OCCUR AT
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